

such a seductress." You can find this statement in: "Celebrating Quality 1998–2008" by Donald Berwick, M.D., speech at London Science Museum, September 30, 2008.

3. "The NHS is not just a national treasure; it is a global treasure. As unabashed fans, we urge a dialogue on possible forms of stabilization to better provide the NHS with the time, space, and constancy of purpose to realize its enormous promise." You can find this statement in: "Steadying the NHS" by Donald Berwick, M.D. and Sheila Leatherman, *BMJ*, July 29, 2006, p. 255.

4. "Cynics beware: I am romantic about the National Health Service; I love it. All I need to do to rediscover the romance is to look at health care in my own country." You can find this statement in: "A Transatlantic Review of the NHS at 60" by Donald Berwick, M.D., *BMJ*, July 26, 2008, p. 213.

5. "Here [in Britain], you choose the harder path. You plan the supply; you aim a bit low; you prefer slightly too little of a technology or a service to too much; then you search for care bottlenecks and try to relieve them." You can find this statement in: "A Transatlantic Review of the NHS at 60" by Donald Berwick, M.D., *BMJ*, July 26, 2008, p. 213.

REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION

Mr. COBURN. I ask unanimous consent that my letter to Senator McConnell dated June 9, 2010, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, June 9, 2010.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Senate Minority Leader,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MCCONNELL: I am requesting that I be consulted before the Senate enters into any unanimous-consent agreements or time limitations regarding S. 3019/H.R. 3695, Billy's Law.

I support the goals of this legislation and believe that information regarding missing persons and unidentified remains should be accurate and properly maintained. However, I believe that we can and must do so in a fiscally responsible manner. My concerns are included in, but not limited to, those outlined in this letter.

While this bill is well-intentioned, it costs the American people over \$64 million. This legislation has received no process in the Senate Judiciary Committee, as it was only recently introduced on February 23, 2010. As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I believe, prior to floor consideration, legislation under the committee's jurisdiction should be processed in regular order. Appropriate hearings and debate in committee markup are essential to all legislation, especially legislation like Billy's Law, which spends significant federal dollars, authorizes new programs and requires the sharing of personally identifiable information between government databases.

Although additional resources may be necessary, we should act responsibly by reviewing current operations, evaluating their effectiveness, and then determining the best strategy for addressing the areas with the

most need. That cannot be accomplished with constant use of the hotline process. The Congressional Research Service estimates that 94% of all measures passed by the Senate do not receive a roll call vote. The hotline process is even more detrimental to transparency and oversight when legislation, like Billy's Law, is hotlined without going through regular committee order.

Moreover, it is irresponsible for Congress to jeopardize the future standard of living of our children by borrowing from future generations. The U.S. national debt is now \$13 trillion. That means over \$42,000 in debt for each man, woman and child in the United States. A year ago, the national debt was \$11.2 trillion. Despite pledges to control spending, Washington adds \$4.6 billion to the national debt every single day—that is \$3.2 million every single minute.

In addition to the above, there are several specific problems with this legislation. First, Billy's Law seeks to authorize the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs), an online repository for information about missing persons and unidentified remains. However, this database has been in operation, without Congressional authorization, since 2007. Before we seek to condone an existing program by providing a Congressional authorization, we should perform rigorous oversight of NamUs to determine whether there is existing waste, fraud and abuse or ways to increase its efficiency. Without the opportunity to conduct hearings and committee markup, it is impossible to effectively examine and evaluate the current operation of NamUs.

Second, merely to maintain NamUs, Billy's Law authorizes \$2.4 million per year for fiscal years 2011 through 2016, totaling \$14.4 million, without corresponding offsets. This authorization exceeds the yearly sum of \$1.3 million the Department of Justice indicates is necessary to maintain the database. Furthermore, according to the Congressional Research Service, Congress already provides funding for NamUs via the National Institute of Justice and the Community Oriented Policing Service. I am concerned that this bill will enable NamUs to double dip into multiple sources of funding for the same purposes.

Third, the bill requires the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database and NamUs to share information on missing persons and unidentified remains. While the bill requires the Attorney General and Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to establish rules on confidentiality of this information, I remain concerned about the protection of this personally identifiable information.

NamUs is accessible not only by law enforcement, but also the public. NamUs is comprised of two smaller databases—the Missing Persons Database and the Unidentified Remains Database. While the Unidentified Remains Database does not allow the public to enter information and restricts certain information from being accessed by the public, the Missing Persons Database allows both the public and law enforcement to submit information about missing persons. There is no way to guarantee the consistency and accuracy of publicly entered information. The ability of NamUs and NCIC to share information via this legislation magnifies these concerns.

Fourth, the bill also establishes an Incentive Grants Program to provide law enforcement, coroners, medical examiners and other authorized agencies with grants to facilitate reporting information to both NCIC and NamUs. These grants can be used for very broad purposes, including hiring, contracting and "other purposes consistent with the goals of this section." I believe that state

and local law enforcement and other state or locally-run agencies should bear the burden of reporting state and local information. If these databases are, in fact, effective and further the investigations carried out by state and local law enforcement, they should be willing to prioritize funding in their own budgets to utilize the databases accordingly.

Furthermore, the task of investigating missing person and unidentified remains cases often falls primarily on state and local law enforcement. As a result, the federal government should not bear the entire cost for either the Incentive Grants Program or the operation of the NamUs database. For the Incentive Grants Program, the bill authorizes \$10 million per year for fiscal years 2011 through 2015, totaling \$50 million that is not offset by reductions in real spending elsewhere in the federal budget. In addition, there is no limit on the amount that the Attorney General may award for each grant. Rather, the Attorney General has the discretion to determine how much each grantee receives.

In addition to offsets for federal spending on these programs, I believe all funding in this legislation should be borne at least equally between the states and the federal government. It is clear that state and local law enforcement will be utilizing NamUs often. In fact, the Incentive Grants Program authorized in this bill is specifically to help state and local entities "facilitate the process of reporting information regarding missing persons and unidentified remains to the NCIC database and NamUs databases. . . ."

While there is no question that law enforcement should endeavor to quickly locate missing persons and return them to their families, the federal government is already making efforts to facilitate this process. Congress should, like many American individuals and companies do with their own resources, evaluate current programs, determine any needs that may exist and prioritize those needs for funding by cutting from the federal budget programs fraught with waste, fraud, abuse and duplication.

Sincerely,

TOM A. COBURN, M.D.,
United States Senator.

REMEMBERING DOROTHY KAMENSHEK

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Dorothy Kamenshek who passed away on May 17 at her home in Palm Desert, CA. She was 84 years old.

Dorothy Kamenshek was born in Norwood, OH, on December 21, 1925. Her gifts on the diamond were evident from the time she attended the tryouts for an all women's baseball league in Cincinnati while she was a high school senior. Her performance at the tryouts earned her an invitation to participate in the final tryouts that were held at Wrigley Field in Chicago. From the Wrigley Field tryouts, Ms. Kamenshek would emerge as one of two women from Cincinnati who were selected to play in the fledgling All-American Girls Professional Baseball League.

The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League was the brainchild of Chicago Cubs owner, Phillip Wrigley, who sought to fill the void that had been created by the disbanding of many minor league teams as a result of young men who were drafted into the armed services during World War II.